

TOWN OF NEWFIELSD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. Selectmen present were James McIlroy, Janet Smith and Roberta Gerkin. Others present were Chief Reed, Fran Lane and Wendy Chase.

Chief Reed updated the Board on the four grants the Police Department applied for. They include the DWI short grant which will occur over one weekend this summer, the DWI long grant which lasts throughout the summer from May through September, the Speed Grant which will go from mid May to early September and the bullet proof vest grant which was passed at the March town meeting and whereas the town will be reimbursed 50% of the total purchase.

Chief Reed informed the Board that the Newfields Police Department was officially granted NH State recognition. The Department will be awarded a certificate at the annual Police Chief Convention on June 14th. The Chief invited the Selectmen to attend.

The new police vehicle will be fully equipped in 4 to 6 weeks due to car 54.

Chief Reed received 3 different bids for carpeting the Police Department. He chose not to put in new carpet at this time. The Board agreed. Chief Reed will have the carpet professionally cleaned.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable checks.

The Conservation Commission will reimburse the Town for expenses incurred by the Newfields Greenway project.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Exeter and the Town of Newfields in regards to Channel 22 was signed by the Board. The Town of Newfields will soon be able to access this Channel.

The Selectmen signed a change tax land use form for lot 1A of Evergreen Estates.

Janet presented the finished copy of the snow removal grant to the Board for signatures. The Board signed the application. Wendy will mail it out tomorrow.

The Selectmen adjourned upstairs at 7:00pm to attend the Public Hearing on the Gilmore Conservation Easement and will later reconvene the Selectmen's meeting.

The Selectmen have not received any communication from Nancy Gilmore.

The Board stated that they would like public input before they made any decisions. Ms. Millbury of Millbury Associates asked, on her own behalf, for clarity on the Easement. At the present time there are no plans to create trails on the Gilmore Easement but that does not guarantee the potential buyers that there will never be trails created. Ms. Millbury questioned who would be liable if someone were to get injured on the trails. Fran replied that it would be up to a Judge.

Mike Price spoke on behalf of the Open Space Committee and did not remember that the Committee ever spoke of public access to the Easement.

Different scenarios were discussed. Fran recommended that the Board go into meeting with Counsel at 8:35pm.

The Board announced that there would be a continuation on the Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at 7:30pm.

James made a motion to continue the Public Hearing Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at 7:30pm, Janet seconded and all were in favor.

The Selectmen continued their meeting downstairs.

James made a motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2005 as amended, Janet seconded and all were in favor.

Roberta went over a list of topics that need to be addressed by the Board which include possibly adding the town report on the web site to cut down on costs, Old Post Office Building, web site updates done more regularly and hazardous mitigation. She discussed putting something on the web site for the Fire Department soliciting volunteers.

Janet discussed the personnel policy. The Board decided to hold a work session on the personnel policy on May 31st at 8:00pm. Wendy was directed to leave the agenda open for this.

The Board discussed the barn preservation easement applications. Janet recused herself as one of the applicants.

The Board of Selectmen went through a series of eligibility checklists and guidelines from sources including the NH Preservation Alliance, the NH Division of Historical Resources, the Local Government Center and other various sources. The determination of the Board of Selectmen was that although minimal public benefit existed based solely on the visibility from a public road, that benefit does not outweigh the tax impact.

Roberta made a motion to deny both barn preservation applications, James seconded and all were in favor.

Wendy was directed to add the above verbiage on the application and send a copy to each applicant.

Roberta made a motion to adjourn at 10:37pm, James seconded and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase